

Aspen Delineation Project



2003 summary



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2003 Summary Report

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Aspen Delineation Project
2003 Summary
(October 2002-September 2003)

Overview

The 2003 report summarizes the second year of the Aspen Delineation Project (ADP) as a project cosponsored by the Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region; California State Office, Bureau of Land Management; and California Department of Fish and Game. David Burton, the Principal Investigator of the Aspen Delineation Project, works under the direction of Hugh Safford (FS), Ed Lorentzen (BLM), and Eric Loft (CDFG).

Aspen Delineation Project Workshop: Developing Tools for Aspen Management, University of California at Davis

The Aspen Delineation Project sponsored a conference at the University of California campus in Davis, California on May 8, 2003. The theme of the conference was "Developing Tools for Aspen Management." There were seventy participants from five federal and state agencies, three NGOs, and a number of private consulting and management companies from throughout California and Nevada. Participants came from as far away as Oregon, Montana, and South Carolina. Agenda issues included assessment, implementation and effectiveness monitoring protocols, field crew training programs, data entry support, wildlife issues, and management implications. Conference keynoters were John Willoughby--California State Botanist Bureau of Land Management, and Dale Bartos--Rocky Mountain Research Station. (See Appendix A: Conference Agenda)

Development of Aspen Condition and Location Protocol CD

The Aspen Delineation Project, in its continuing effort to provide District and Forest resource managers tools to assist them with aspen management issues, developed a CD entitled "Aspen Condition and Location Protocol." The CD contains

- (1) PDF files of the ADP aspen stand assessment protocols and field form developed in 2002,
- (2) the Data Entry Program (version 1.3), developed to facilitate the storage of aspen stand assessment data, and
- (3) a copy of the "Interactive Guide to the Location and Condition" protocols. The guide was developed to assist resource managers prepare field crews for assessment work. The guide was created by Sandrine Tournier, a Sierra College student intern (Rocklin, California), as part of a cooperative project between the Forest Service and the College's Art and Applied Design Department (see Appendix B: Protocol for Aspen Location and Condition)

Region 5 Protocols for Monitoring Aspen Regeneration on Range Allotments

The Aspen Delineation Project is assisting the US Forest Service Region 5 Range Program in development of recommended protocols for monitoring aspen regeneration on range allotments. David Burton is coordinating this effort under the direction and supervision of Jim Shackelford, Pacific Southwest Region, (R5), Range Program Manager and Tom Frolli, Forest Range and Wildlife Officer, Lassen National Forest.

The objectives of this undertaking are

- to establish a consistent method for identification of browse on aspen regeneration,
- to develop implementation monitoring protocols related to woody stem utilization standards found in the SNFPA, and
- to establish effectiveness monitoring protocols for determining the relationship of management practices to aspen regeneration.

The thirteen members of the review panel formed to implement this undertaking bring a range of expertise to this effort--Rocky Mountain Research Station aspen researchers, R5 monitoring professionals, R5 Range management officers, and R5 ecologists, and an academic scientist specializing in range science (See Appendix C: Project Review Team).

To date, several drafts of the protocols have been developed and reviewed. The current draft has been field tested by range conservation managers during field workshop on Plumas and Modoc National Forests range allotments. Additional field testing has been undertaken by individual R5 range managers.

Aspen Delineation Project Field Seminars

The Aspen Delineation Project co-sponsored two two-day aspen field seminars in July 2003. The first was a joint effort cosponsored by the Inyo National Forest and the Bishop Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (Coordinators: Kathleen Nelson INF and Anne Halford, BLM); and the second was cosponsored by the Summit Ranger District, Stanislaus National Forest (Coordinator: Adam Rich). The workshop facilitators were Dale Bartos and Wayne Shepperd of the Rocky Mountain Research Station, and Tom Rickman, Wildlife Biologist, and Bobette Jones, Ecologist, Eagle Lake Ranger District, Lassen National Forest. (Note: The Eagle Lake Ranger District has become a national model for adaptive management of aspen habitats.) The workshops were designed to assist Interdisciplinary Team members-- wildlife biologists, botanists, hydrologists, silviculturists, fire staff, archeologists, and line officers--to better understand aspen issues and planning options for aspen restoration projects. Additional targeted participants were local NGOs, Fish and Game biologists, and County UC Agriculture Extension agents. Approximately thirty-five people attended each of the two seminars.

Eagle Lake Field Office, Bureau of Land Management Aspen Field Seminar

In July, a one-day aspen field seminar was facilitated by David Burton. It was sponsored by the Eagle Lake Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management. There were 14 attendees with representatives from two BLM Field Offices as well as the BLM California State Office.

Modoc National Forest Field Seminar

In September, David Burton facilitated discussion and field testing of the draft monitoring protocols for aspen on rangelands during part of a two-day aspen field seminar organized by the Modoc National Forest. Additionally, the Aspen Delineation Project assisted in coordination of the involvement of two BLM Field Offices--Alturas and Surprise Valley--in the workshop. There were approximately 20 participants in the event, representing a range of interdisciplinary team scientific fields.

Riparian Habitat Restoration Study

The Aspen Delineation Project is one of the co-principal coordinators of a Riparian Habitat Restoration Study which received startup funding in the Spring of 2003 from the US Forest Service. The study is designed to look at the long-term environmental effects of conifer removal to achieve aspen release in near-stream areas within the Northern Sierras. The principal investigator for this project is Kenneth Tate, Ph.D, Rangeland Watershed Specialist, University of California-Davis. In summer 2003 five study sites were established in the Lassen National Forest. The principal role of the Aspen Delineation project is to identify additional study sites that can be incorporated into the study as funding becomes available.

2003 National Silviculture Workshop Presentation

Title: Protocol for the Ecological Assessment of a Special Species
Location: Granby, Colorado, September 2003
Presenter: David Burton, ADP, Principal Investigator

Aspen Annotated Bibliography

The Aspen Delineation Project, working cooperatively with the Forest Service Library Network, undertook first steps to create a web-based annotated aspen bibliography. The initial phase of this project, an extensive search of electronic databases for aspen related publications, was completed in September 2003. At the suggestion of one of the officers of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, ADP has submitted a funding proposal to the group for part of the cost sharing in the development of the bibliography. The proposal is currently under review by the national office of the RMEF.

Poster Presentations

Aspen Delineation Project poster presentations:

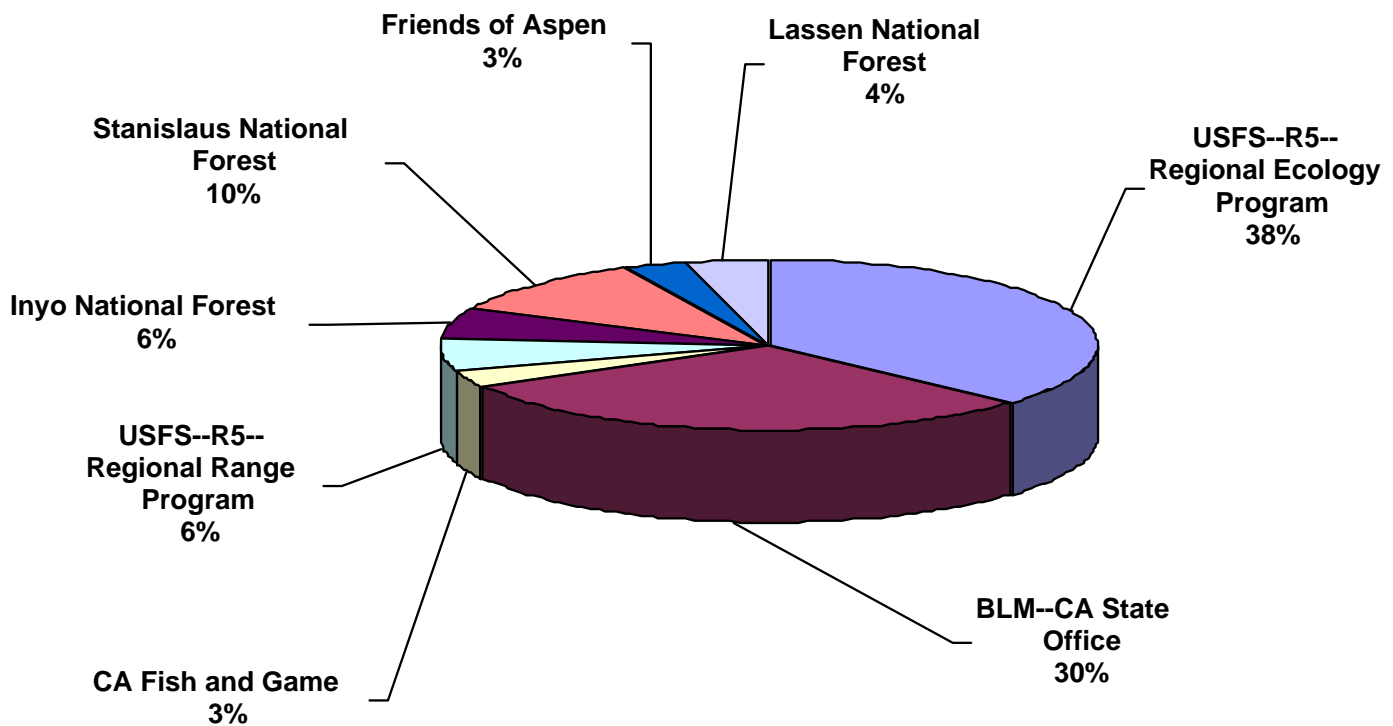
- Lake Tahoe Ecological Forum, March 2003
- Aspen Conference, University of California at Davis, May 2003
- National Silviculture Workshop, Granby, Colorado, September 2003

Miscellaneous 2003 Activities

Additional 2003 activities

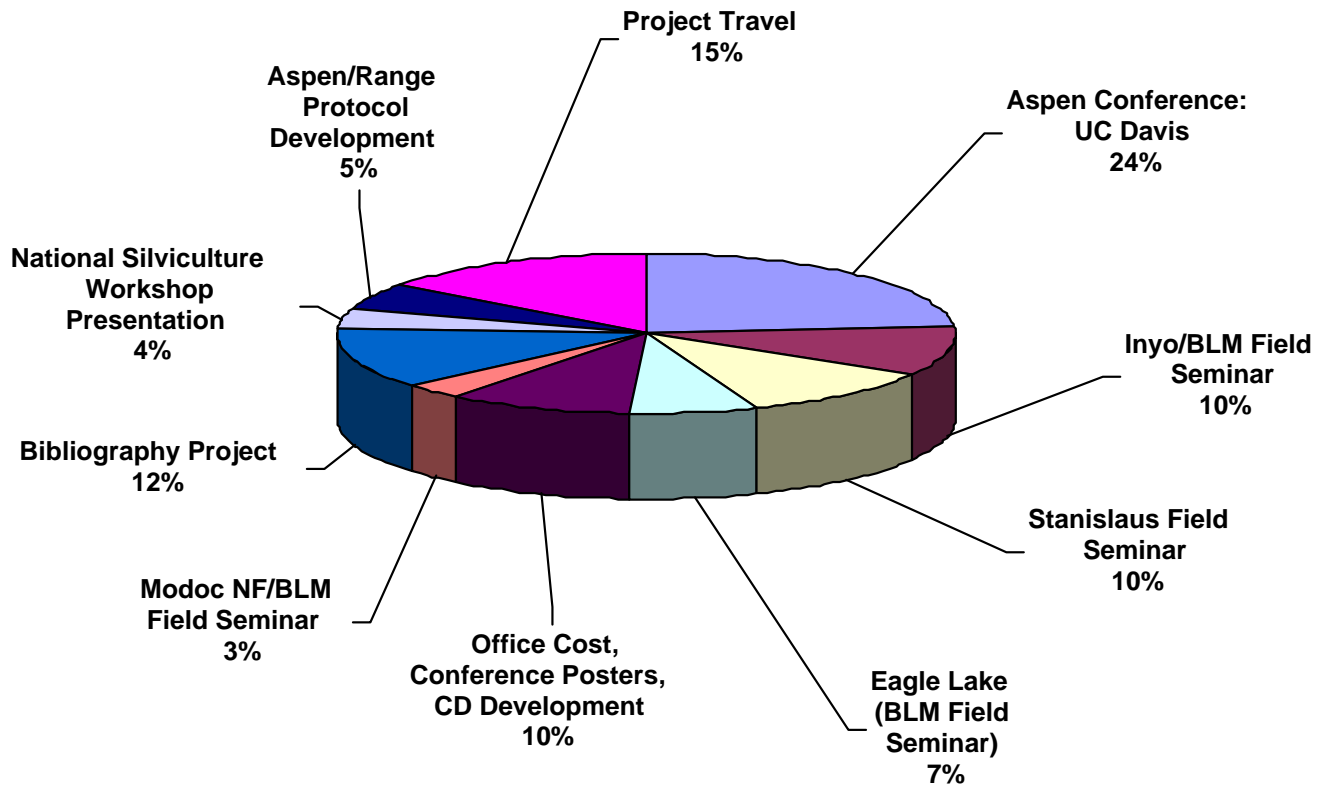
- Prepared talking points for PSW Regional Forester for aspen presentation to National Leadership Training Conference
- Reviewed and commented on Wildlife Management Institutes presentation to the Forest Service regarding the value of aspen on Forest Service lands.
- Assisted the Warner Ranger District, Modoc National Forest, in preparation of funding grant request for the Mule Deer Foundation.
- Worked with Tahoe National Forest on the development of a data dictionary for use in conjunction with stand assessment protocols
- Conducted "genetic sampling" field crew training in the Lassen National Forest National Forest Genetic Electrophoresis Laboratory as part of the Lassen National Forest's Aspen Genetic Study
- Presented Aspen Delineation Project 2002 Awards:
 - The "**2002 Cooperative Endeavor Award**" was presented to the Summit Ranger District, Stanislaus National Forest and the Mother Lode Foundation of the Mule Deer Foundation. This award recognizes the cooperative effort between the Forest Service and the Mule Deer Foundation over the past four years. During that time frame, the Mother Lode Chapter participated, through volunteer work days, in an average of three aspen restoration projects each year. They have removed encroaching conifers and constructed and maintained fencing. Their work has contributed significantly to the restoration of aspen and deer habitat in several watersheds.
 - The "**2002 Habitat Restoration Award**" was presented to the Eagle Lake Ranger District, Lassen National Forest. This award recognizes the work the Eagle Lake Ranger District has undertaken in aspen stand restoration efforts over the past five years in documenting threatened stands, developing and implementing restoration plans, and establishing a monitoring program to measure stand response to management treatments.
 - The "**2002 Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award**" was presented to Don Yasuda, Pacific Ranger District, Eldorado National Forest. He was instrumental in the development of a data base program for use with the standardized rapid assessment aspen inventory protocols that were developed by the Aspen Delineation Project. The data program facilitates GIS data entry and is the foundation for merging state-wide multi-agency aspen data. His efforts were contributed entirely on a volunteer basis.

Aspen Delineation Project Funding Sources



USFS--R5--Regional Ecology Program	\$	6,000.00
BLM--CA State Office	\$	5,000.00
CA Fish and Game	\$	500.00
USFS--R5--Regional Range Program	\$	1,000.00
Inyo National Forest	\$	1,000.00
Stanislaus National Forest	\$	1,700.00
Friends of Aspen	\$	500.00
Lassen National Forest	\$	700.00
Funding Sources	\$	16,400.00

Aspen Delineation Project Expenses



Aspen Conference: UC Davis	\$	3,877.00
Inyo/BLM Field Seminar	\$	1,652.00
Stanislaus Field Seminar	\$	1,700.00
Eagle Lake(BLM Field Seminar)	\$	1,113.00
Office Cost/Conference Posters/CD Development	\$	1,608.00
Modoc NF/BLM Field Seminar	\$	479.00
Bibliography Project	\$	2,000.00
National Silviculture Workshop Presentation	\$	700.00
Aspen/Range Protocol Development	\$	874.00
Project Travel	\$	2,397.00
Project Expenses	\$	16,400.00

Appendix A: Aspen Conference

Aspen Workshop Agenda • Davis, California • May 8, 2003

Time	Section	Subject	Presenter	
Continental Breakfast	Posters			8: 00
Intro		Welcome	Hugh Safford	8: 45
		ADP and Workshop Overview	David Burton	8: 55
	Morning Keynote	Planning: A Major Part of Monitoring (25)	John Willoughby	9: 05
Morning : Session I	Assessing the Ecological Condition of Aspen Stands	Introduction		9:30
		A Protocol for Establishing Ecological Conditions (20)	David Burton	
		Creating and Managing Aspen Data (20)	Don Yasuda	
		Discussion (20)	David Burton Don Yasuda Wayne Shepperd	
Break	Posters			10:30
Morning: Session 2	Aspen Management: A Case Study: Eagle Lake RD, Lassen National Forest	Introduction		10:50
		An Aspen Restoration Program: Development and Implementation (20)	Tom Rickman	
		Monitoring for Adaptive Management (20)	Bobette Jones	
		Discussion (30)	Tom Rickman Bobette Jones Wayne Shepperd	
Lunch	Posters			12:00
Afternoon	Afternoon Keynote	Using Existing Research in Aspen Management (25)	Dale Bartos	1:00
Afternoon: Session 3	Aspen on Rangeland	Aspen on Rangelands: Developing Monitoring Protocols (15)	Tom Frolli David Burton	1:25
		Discussion (20)	Tom Frolli Dale Bartos	
	Special Projects	The Significance of Aspen to Northern Goshawks in California and Nevada (30)	Brian Woodbridge	2:00
Break	Posters			2:30
Afternoon: Session 4	Special Projects	Examining the Effects of Aspen Restoration in Riparian Corridors (20)	Ken Tate	2:50
		Developing Funding Mechanisms (20)	Adam Rich	3:10
		Discussion (20)		
Wrapup		Where Do We Go from Here?		3:50
Workshop Conclusion				4:15